

## VI. LAND USE AND POPULATION

The flow of traffic within an area is based on the physical conditions of the travelways, population, land use, and the economic conditions within that area. Before an accurate estimate of traffic can be made for future travel patterns an accurate investigation of present land use, population, economy, and road usage must be completed. An estimate can be made of travel for the future year based on existing travel trends. Usually the planning horizon is twenty years from the base year. The planning horizon for this study is twenty-six years. A more detailed explanation of this modeling process can be found in Chapter VIII.

### POPULATION TRENDS:

The amount of travel on a road network is based partly on the population within the planning area. **Table 3** shows historic population totals over the past twenty-four years. The population within the City's of Hamlet and Rockingham have increased by over 45 percent from 1970 to 1990 (N.C. State Data Center). On the other hand, the population of Richmond County has increased by only twelve percent within the same period.

**TABLE 3**  
**POPULATION TRENDS**

<u>POPULATION:</u>	1970	1980	1990	1994	2010	2020
Rockingham/Hamlet/ Dobbins heights City Limits	* 11,476	* 14,257	* 16,739			
Rockingham/Hamlet Planning Area				33,500	*** 36,410	*** 38,350
Richmond County	* 39,889	* 45,161	* 44,518		** 43,396	
North Carolina	*5,084,411	*5,880,095	*6,628,637		**8,070,877	
Dwelling Units				13,962		**17,432
Persons/D.U.				2.40		2.20

\* U.S. Census Data

\*\* N.C. State Data Center

\*\*\* Rockingham/Hamlet Planning Staff/NCDOT